

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2001
Alaska Building, 13th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present: Meryl Abramson, Marc Avni, Gabe Cohen, Timmie Faghin, Lee Gaylor, Suzanne Gehring, Juanita Grant, Murray Meld, Cecil Pollard, Mae Shields, Cherie Sigrist, Karen Sluiter, Helen Spencer, Leo Ward, Fred Yee

Absent: Martha Becker, Peter Steinbrueck,

Excused: Miriam Horrigan, Greg Stack, Will Parry, Suzanne Wiley

STAFF: Pamela Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston, Linda Wells, Karen Brewer, Margaret Casey, Peggy O'Brien-Murphy, Tom Rasmussen, Suzanne Simmons, Linda Woodall, Selina Chow

GUESTS: Pat Carroll, Gladys Romero,

Action Summary

- One-time transition period for terms of office
- Accept as presented P&A recommendation for supplemental allocation of \$357,000
- Amendment to Family Caregiver Report given new money from OAA Title III-E allocations.
- Allow flexible respite care allocation range of 25-35%

Minutes

Murray Meld, Chair convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. December minutes were approved as read.

Retreat Follow-up

Discussion on retreat survey issues included comments regarding recruitment guidelines, especially stressing more diversity representation on the Advisory Council from the disability community. It was suggested that we develop a pool of potential applicants. One consistently difficult problem is getting appointment confirmations completed in a timely manner. This is more easily accomplished by United Way than the other sponsors because of the governing bodies involved in the City and County process. We need to encourage the government entities to give appointments more priority and attention. When AC does not have full membership, the burden of Council and Committee/Task Force work falls on fewer members. By-laws allow adding non-council participants to task forces, and thus can ease this burden. Potentially, non-council participants can become future Council candidates. A less than full Council can cause quorum problems and seriously inhibit the work of the

AC. Problems exist in paper work requirements, getting on Council agenda and a finding the right candidates.

At Murray's suggestion, the Council prioritized issues of concern (that emerged from the AC retreat) in three categories of attention/action. ***Murray asked the AC to come to the March meeting with thoughts on how to strengthen the AC in the following areas:*** External Relations, Member Internal Relations, and Organizational Tools and Structure. Murray's outline for this will be sent to all AC members before the March meeting. (See attached for issue priorities and focus timing)

Everyone agreed an orientation session(s) would be extremely valuable and should include a mission statement, history of accomplishments and possibly mentor availability of the more experienced AC members. It's also important for applicants to know about sponsors - who they are and what they do. The "Orientation Notebooks" that are presently given out to new AC members include the Four-Year Area Plan, By-Laws, Interlocal Agreement, Older Americans Act, Council Roster, Current Minutes and Calendar, and Committee/Task Force Make-up. Should anything else be added?

One-time transition period for terms of office

Karen Sluiter passed out copies of a resolution that would allow transition of terms for both AC members and officers to change from the current mid-year schedule (May1 to April 30) to a calendar year. AC Sponsors (United Way, King County, and City of Seattle) have supported this change as it will enable the work of the Advisory Council and AC committees to coincide with calendar year programs and funding without having to cope with an abrupt change in membership during a crucial work period. Karen explained that the resolution allows terms expiring April 30, 2001 to be extended to Dec 31, 2001. All new appointments beginning mid-year of 2001 will be considered transition terms and shall not be included in the maximum allowed term of service.

Motion/Seconded/Passed (MSP) Pollard/Cohen/unanimous.

Karen Sluiter was given a round of applause for all her work on the by-laws, sponsors agreement and the transition resolution. The Resolution will be taken up at the sponsors meeting on February 21st.

Director's Report

Pam joined the applause saying she often find others amazed at the body of work produced by the AC and expressed her appreciation of AC members efforts and dedication to Aging issues.

She then focused on two items: 1) LongTerm Care Alliance letters returned to date number several thousand signatures. Pam encouraged AC members to keep up the drive for more signatures. 2) Grant successes: ADS recently received a \$50,000 grant for a pilot program to deliver fresh produce to low-income seniors every other week. We're partnered in this venture with the Pike Place Market for produce and Senior Services for providing access to low-income seniors through the Meals on Wheels Program. No other similar program that was funded in the state. This is clearly an exciting and great way to get wonderful, fresh, organic vegetables and fruit into the communities where it is most needed, and it will have a strong effect on our Area Plan goals of nutrition and healthy aging.

Other new dollars received by ADS are: \$7,500 grant from comprehensive health education foundation, written by Karen Winston, to help our diabetes work by buying physical therapy and exercise for people with diabetes – it also includes a Health Dept component of \$25,000; Nine West,

a company that sells women's shoes and purses, because of a rules violation, was required by national consent decree to put up a trust fund to benefit women. Linda Wells wrote a successful application for \$20,000 for caregiver training.

Pam announced a name change for the Client Specific Fund, a flexible fund of \$200,000-300,000 that buys services for case management clients throughout the county. Amy Wong, wife of AC member Fred Yee, died in October 2000. She dedicated much of her life to assisting others and was a case manager for ADS for 15 years. Amy continually represented the best of what we're about. In memory of her commitment to those in need, the Client Specific Fund has been renamed the ***Amy Wong Client Fund***. Fred Yee expressed his and his family's appreciation for this honor bestowed in memory of Amy and gave his commitment to work for the expansion of the fund. To that end he then offered a personal check as a donation to Amy's fund. Applause, appreciation and emotion filled the room. Pam then told the Council that ADS staff has already raised over \$1,000 toward the fund.

Committee Reports

Gabe Cohen reported about the Senior Lobby Day in Olympia yesterday. Gabe, Murray and Timmie attended and found it a very valuable experience. All three encouraged everyone to join forces and attend the W4A Lobby Day on March 21st. The focus of Senior Lobby was on home care worker wages, prescription drugs, and long-term care. Gabe emphasized the value of supporting these critical bills by sending letters and e-mail to the legislators. He also gave us the new toll-free hotline # 1-800-562-6118. The regular hotline is # 1-800-562-6000. Gabe had the experience of his legislative representatives asking *him* for information – which he immediately went to research and returned with the information. He was thanked for his efforts by surprised and delighted legislators. Gabe says it is this type of “partnering” that helps educate legislators who are on different committees and not up to date on what's happening in areas other than their own committee work.

One emerging bill of importance is the Prescription Drug Fair Pricing Act, HB1703, sponsored by Rep Steve Conway (360) 786-7906. The bill allows the state direct bulk purchase of drugs at a lower price and then pass the savings on to the citizens. Large Corporations and HMOs already get large discounts by purchasing in bulk. Gabe says HB 1703 does not hurt local pharmacies and increases the volume of drug companies. Murray cautioned that the cut in drug costs must not come at the expense of the local pharmacies. Timmie added that no one should leave Olympia without visiting the Governor's office and filling out an issue support form available there.

Selina Chow reported for Planning & Allocations Committee in Miriam Horrigan's absence. The 2001 Discretionary Allocation was \$6,600,000. An additional supplemental allocation of \$357,000 is available, plus other monies from Fed Older Americans Act (OAA), Title III E for Family Caregiver Support Program. (Discretionary funds basically come from the City & OAA and unspent budget money.) Sponsors have made some recommendations for unfunded priorities including: inflationary adjustments for agencies, technology support, special I&A assistance and programs for minority and homeless communities, and the Amy Wong Client Fund including funds for the client assessment process. (See M Horrigan memo re Supplemental Allocation).

MSP Gaylor/Cohen/Avni Accept as presented, P&A recommendation for supplemental allocation of \$357,000. 14 approved/1 abstention (Avni)

Recommendation now goes out for public comment then returns to AC and Sponsors for final approval.

MSP Cohen/Avni Amendment to Family Caregiver Report regarding new money from OAA Title III-E: 10% allocated for kinship care (grandparents caring for grandchildren), 25%-for respite care, the remainder will be awarded through an RFP process seeking providers for infrastructure development, information services, special projects reflecting diversity, and a portion will be awarded as mini grants.

Friendly amendment MSP Cohen/Avni to allow flexible respite care range of 25-35%
This recommendation will be taken under advisement for public comment

Meryl Abramson reported that February 28 Universal Design Brown Bag is ready to go. Mailings have been sent out and we are looking forward to exciting presentation in Council Chambers at noon.

Karen Sluiter reported that the Health Care Task Force has been following the Medicaid program issue to fund community-based services on a more even level with nursing homes services (under the COPES Program) DSHS supports extension of criteria of community-based services but not to persons who want to remain in their homes. Legislation is now being proposed to include in-home care. The HC Task Force will be working with Outreach & Advocacy on several similar issues throughout the year.

Tom Rasmussen asked for volunteers for Call for Generous Seniors who know Seattle well, or have lived in the area for a long time. These seniors are going into grade school classes and sharing their history and experiences with grade school children. This is quickly becoming an exciting and powerful program in the schools.

Announcements

Rosemary announced that the AARP site has been cancelled for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Teleconference.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: March 9, 2001, Noon–2:00 PM
Alaska Building, 13th Fl. Conference Forum
618 Second Ave.
Seattle, WA 98104

Meryl Abramson, Secretary-Treasurer

Advisory Council Retreat Follow-up Suggestions

Sequence	Strengthen Member Relations	Strengthen Community Relations	Improve Organizational Tools
Right Away	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Mission Statement Develop an AC pre-Appointment Briefings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closer cooperation with Mayor's Comm on Senior Citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify agenda items requirements: action, info, decision Evaluate meetings Improve communication between committees and task forces Minutes begin with summary
Soon		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speakers' Bureau Work with Sponsors and Public to recruit adults with disabilities for AC and task forces Convene a focus group to develop a strategy for attracting persons with disabilities Cultivate Media 	
More Work Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matrix of AC members showing bio's and ethnicity, etc. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate Outreach from Advocacy Define "Task Force" vs. "Committees"
Assign to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule alternative meeting sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">